

**HUGHES**  
**Application No. 09/623,977**  
**December 29, 2006**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 3, 12, 18, 19, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are pending in this application. Each of these claims have been indicated as being allowable. All other claims have been canceled without prejudice. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are therefore deemed moot.

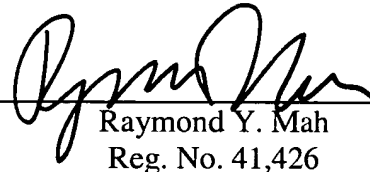
**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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